Reasons for Allowance

1.   The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

        Claims 1-11 and 15 are allowable over the prior art of record.

2.   The examiner has found that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render

        obvious a method of extending a communication test/measurement agent, comprising

        providing the communication test/measurement agent with built-in functionality to

        enable the communication test/measurement agent to automatically recognize and

        dynamically incorporate a plurality of different interface-specific plugins that are specific

        to different types of communication interfaces and which enable the network test center

        or client to initiate monitoring or testing of the different types of networks, and receive

        test/monitor data therefrom , as set forth in the specification and recited in the

        independent claims.

3.   Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the

        payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany

        the issue fee. Such submission should be clearly labeled "*Comments on Statement of

        Reasons for Allowance*"

Examiner's Amendment

4.   An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or

        additions by unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37

        CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such amendment, it must be submitted no later

        than the payment of the issue fee.

5.   Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with

Matthew Pequignot (Reg. No. 43,851) on June 13, 2011.

6.   The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 12-14 have been canceled

Claim 15 have been replaced with the following amended claim

The rest of the claims remain unchanged

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory machine-readable storage device for storing

information enabling a network test/measurement agent to perform a process, the

process comprising:

        deploying the communication agent, where the communication agent is deployed

on a computing device comprising a plurality of different types of communication

interfaces for communicating with a plurality of different types of networks and

communicates with the communication interfaces using a driver application program,

and where the console programmatically accesses the agent and accesses the

communication interfaces through the agent; and

        after the deploying, making the deployed communication agent aware of a new

communication interface by installing on the computing device plugin software that can

handle commands specific to the new communication interface, where the agent self-

recognizes the plugin software and self-integrates the plugin software, whereby the

plugin software becomes part of the agent and enables the console to send commands

to the new communication interface for monitoring or testing each of the different

networks

~~receiving and processing generic communications from a central communication~~

~~test/measurement system to generically operate the network test/measurement agent;~~

~~and~~

~~recognizing and dynamically incorporating into the network test/measurement agent~~

~~interface-specific a plurality of plugins for monitoring or testing a plurality of different~~

~~networks, and that are specific to different types of communication interfaces and which~~

~~allow the central communication test/measurement system to communicate with the~~

~~respective different types of communication interfaces for initiating monitoring or testing~~

~~of the different networks, and for receiving monitor/test results from the different~~

~~networks.~~

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohamed Wasel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2669. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs (7:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Avellino can be reached on (571) 272-3905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Mohamed Wasel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2454
June 14, 2011